



PlaceME@SMI 2021: 24/7 Basic Health Units in Pakistan

Project Leader / Supervisor	Jeremy Dawson & Sarah Salway
Department / Organisation	University of Sheffield (ScHARR/Sociological Studies)
Project title	Evaluating the quality of maternity care delivered by 24/7 Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Punjab, Pakistan
Project reference	PMS-05-2021
Location of placement	ScHARR, University of Sheffield
Summary of research project	
<p>This post will contribute to a wider, five-year study of Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Pakistan, conducted as a collaboration between the Universities of Sheffield and Alberta, and the Real Medicine Foundation in Pakistan. This study, funded by the Medical Research Council, is collecting mixed-methods data from the BHUs to establish how effectively they have been able to scale up their service to deliver round-the-clock maternity care.</p> <p>This placement will contribute to the quantitative side of the project. Various quantitative data are being gathered about 50 BHUs, including structured care observations and outcome data, and surveys of both staff and mothers (pre- and post-delivery). This placement will take place shortly after the majority of the data collection has been completed, and therefore will coincide with a core section of the data analysis. The placement holder will work with the research team to prepare data sets and conduct data analysis to investigate what features of BHUs are associated with better quality care and outcomes. The placement holder will also have the opportunity to learn about the qualitative components of the study and participate in team discussions regarding the integration of data across the methods.</p>	
Links to external organisation(s), including international partners (if relevant)	
<p>The project is a truly international study, with part of the research team (in particular the project manager, Afshan Bhatti) being based in Pakistan, and another section (Zubia Mumtaz and Gian Jhangri) based at the University of Alberta in Canada. During the placement, the successful candidate will work closely with the section of the team based in Sheffield (PI Sarah Salway, lead statistician Jeremy Dawson, Amy Barnes, and a statistical research associate), but will also attend online meetings with the wider team, enabling an opportunity to gain further links with these international partners.</p>	



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



A step-change in
quantitative social
science skills

Funded by the
Nuffield Foundation,
ESRC and HEFCE

Tasks to be performed during the placement

- Merging and cleaning of data sets in R, Stata, or SPSS
- Conducting descriptive analysis and production of summary statistics for wider project team in appropriate formats
- Conduct some analysis linking inputs to outputs, using general and multilevel linear models, in accordance with a specified analysis plan
- To work with project team members to review analysis and prepare reports for the wider team and/or publication as appropriate
- To attend online project meetings with the international partners
- It is anticipated that most work will be conducted remotely, i.e. working from home. Depending on the state of COVID-19 regulations by then, there may be some face-to-face meetings

Project's outputs

- Report(s) on summary statistics for the 24/7 Basic Health Units being studied
- Reports of some inferential statistical models linking input factors with outcomes for BHUs, staff and patients (mothers and babies)

Person specification

- A strong understanding of quantitative research procedures
- Good experience of at least one of R, Stata, and SPSS (knowing more than one will be an advantage)
- Knowledge of the general linear model (e.g. regression), and an ability to conduct analysis using these methods independently
- Some knowledge of multilevel models, and an ability to conduct multilevel analysis with supervision
- Good writing skills in order to write reports on data analysis conducted
- Excellent attention to detail
- Good communication and team working ability

Terms and conditions

The placement will take place at the University of Sheffield, for 35 hours a week over a period of 6 weeks between the middle of June and end of September. The successful candidate will be awarded a £2012 bursary by SMI.





Students who will be awarded the placement are expected to write two blog posts (x 300 words) for SMI about their experiences.

How to apply?

Candidates should send a CV and a motivation letter in PDF formats by 19 April 2021 to Abigail Tazzyman a.tazzyman@sheffield.ac.uk in an email entitled 'PlaceME@SMI – 24/7 Basic Health Units'.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by key members of the research team by the end of May 2021.

Contact details

Professor Jeremy Dawson – j.f.dawson@sheffield.ac.uk



The University Of Sheffield.



A step-change in quantitative social science skills

Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, ESRC and HEFCE